

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00
DHA-02 EB-07 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01 /077 W
-----130058 101255Z /40

O R 101155Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2737
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7024

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITREP

1. A BRIGADIER AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS, ECHOING A COMMENT ZIA MADE TO A FOREIGN JOURNALIST, HAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE MILITARY HOPES THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTEST IN THE COMING ELECTIONS. SPECULATION REMAINS AS TO WHETHER THE FORMER PM WILL BE BROUGHT TO COURT FOR CRIMES WHICH ALLEGEDLY OCCURED DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION. THAT DECISION WILL NOT BE ENTIRELY LEFT TO THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS AS OTHERS MAY ENTER PRIVATE SUITS AGAINST BHUTTO. GENERAL ZIA, ADDRESSING A
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CONGREAGATION AFTER JUMA PRAYERS ON FRIDAY, SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE IS PRESSURE ON THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION TO DO SO, THERE IS NO PLAN TO TRY BHUTTO AND HE BELIEVES THE FORMER PM SHOULD BE TREATED MAGNANIMOUSLY.

2. THE PPP PARTY NEWSPAPER, MUSAWAAT, IS TAKING LITERALLY THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION COMMENT THERE IS NO PRESS CENSORSHIP.

JULY 9 EDITION CARRIES A FULL FRONT-PAGE PICTURE OF BHUTTO - IN TRIUMPHANT 1970 CAMPAIGN POSE - WITH THE HEADLINE "WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME*" ARTICLE STATES THAT BAGUM BHUTTO HAS SPOKEN WITH HER HUSBAND WHO IS ENCOURAGING PPP WORKERS TO BIDE THEIR TIME UNTIL NEW INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN BY THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. ANOTHER FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IMPLICITLY CRITICIZES THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES FOR REFUSING TO ALLOW PPP POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHILE "CONDONING" PNA ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

3. GENERAL ZIA HAS NAMED SYED SHARIFUDDIN PIRZADA, NO RELATION OF BHUTTO CONFIDANT HAFEEZ PIRZADA, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL REPLACING YAHYA BAKHTIAR. PIRZADA HAD BEEN FOREIGN MINISTER FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR DURING THE AYUB REGIME REPLACING ZULFIGAR ALI BHUTTO. AT THAT TIME THE MOVE WAS SEEN TO BE AN EFFORT ON AYUB'S PART TO HAVE A FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WOULD DO HIS BIDDING. PIRZADA RESIGNED AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND BECAME ATTORNEY GENERAL IN APRIL 1968. THE DAY BHUTTO BECAME PRESIDENT PIRZADA TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION AS ATTORNEY GENERAL AND RETURNED TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN KARACHI WHERE HE HAS REMAINED EVER SINCE. WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS CONSIDERABLE ANIMOSITY BETWEEN THE TWO MEN.

4. GHULAM ISHAQ, FORMERLY SECRETARY GENERAL OF DEFENSE, HAS BEEN GIVEN THE RANK OF SECRETARY-GENERAL-IN-CHIEF WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF A FULL MINISTER. THIS HIGHLIGHTS THE PIVOTAL ROLE HE WILL BE PLAYING IN LIAISON BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND THE BUREAUCRACY.
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5. THE PUNJAB MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR ORDERED THE CANCELLATION OF ALL ARMS LICENSES ISSUED IN THAT PROVINCE SINCE JANUARY 1 AND ALL WEAPONS CARRIED ON THESE LICENSES MUST BE SURRENDERED BEFORE JULY 25, 1977. THE ARMING OF PPP WORKERS WAS ONE OF THE MAIN AREAS OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE PNA AND THE PPP PRIOR TO THE MILITARY TAKE-OVER. A SECOND MARTIAL LAW ORDINANCE ISSUED IN THE PUNJAB BANNED ALL TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES INCLUDING STRIKES. EMPLOYERS HAVE ALSO BEEN PROHIBITED FROM ENGAGING IN LOCK-OUTS, RETRENCHMENT, LAY-OFFS, OR VICTIMIZATION OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

6. ONE SIDELIGHT OF THE TAKE-OVER HAS BEEN THE CONSTANT STREAM OF EXHORTATIONS FROM THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS TO WEED OUT THE CORRUPTION WHICH HAS ALLEGEDLY PERVADED PAKISTAN'S CIVIL SERVICE. GENERAL ZIA TOLD HIS SECRETARIES IN A SPEECH LAST WEEK THAT THEY MUST AVOID THE DISPLAY OF PARTIALITY THAT HAS RECENTLY TAINTED THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE. THE PROVINCIAL MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS HAVE ALSO BEEN IMPRESSING ON THEIR STAFFS THE NEED TO RID THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE CORRUPTION WHICH HAS MARKED IT IN THE PAST. ONE SIGN OF THE TIMES WAS THE SEIZURE IN ISLAMABAD ON JULY 9 OF A NEW MERCEDES-BENZ BELONGING TO FORMER FEDERAL MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES MIAN MOHAMMAD ATAULLAH. THE CAR AS

ALLEGEDLY IMPORTED INTO THE COUNTRY WITHOUT THE PAYMENT OF
CUSTOMS DUTY.

7. IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN RAWALPINDI ON JULY 9 THAT THE CONDUCT OF
MASOOD MAHMOOD, FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY
FORCE, WILL BE PROBED. ONE OF THE POINTS OF GENERAL ZIA'S
INITIAL ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN WAS THAT THE MUCH
DISLIKED FSF, SEEN AS BHUTTO'S PERSONAL POLICE FORCE, WILL BE
REORGANIZED, (A EUPHEMISM FOR DISBANDED).
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, POLICIES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISLAMA07024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770245-0454
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770773/aaaaculuz.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 823cf96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1910613
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL SITREP
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PK, (ZIA UL-HAQ, MOHAMMAD), (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/823cf96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009